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cont in the stamped parts being arranged congruently with respect to one another, at least one of said holes, in a middle one of the stamped parts, having a hole wall which is provided with an elastomeric plastic cover.

sub B1 > 5. (Amended) Functional component according to Claim 4, wherein connecting webs lead from the injection-moulded plastic around the hole edge, said webs running on a base surface of the middle stamped part and are made of the injection-moulding compound and from which plug-in domes, which project from the base surface, and are formed out at certain points on the webs, and

wherein correspondingly dimensioned passage holes, into which the plug-in domes are fitted, are formed on the two outer stamped parts, congruently with respect to the plug-in domes.

6. (Amended) Functional component according to Claim 5, wherein the passage holes at the location of the plug-in domes are also formed on the middle stamped part, and

wherein the plug-in domes or the connecting webs belonging to one side of the middle stamped part are joined integrally to the plug-in domes or the connecting webs belonging to the other side via the passage holes.

sub B2 > 7. (Amended) Functional component according to Claim 5, wherein, in the plugged-in position, the plug-in domes project out of the passage holes of the outer stamped parts and bear against the outer sides of the outer stamped parts, which are remote from the middle stamped part, by way of a flat head which is wider than the dimension of the passage holes.

8. (Amended) Functional component according to Claim 4, wherein spacer lugs are formed from a material which is harder than the injection-
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moulding plastic on inner sides, of the outer stamped parts which face towards the middle stamped part.

9. (Amended) Method for producing a functional component designed as a gate plate of an automatic gear shift mechanism with a locking gate, having engagement holes for engagement elements which kinetically interact with the functional component, wherein the functional component comprises at least three stamped parts, which lie flat sandwiched against one another, are unreleasably connected to one another and each have at least two engagement holes for engagement elements which kinetically interact with the functional component, the engagement holes in the stamped parts being arranged congruently with respect to one another, at least one of said holes, in a middle one of the stamped parts, having a hole wall which is provided with an elastomeric plastic cover, said method comprising:

stamping three smaller individual metal sheets out of a larger metal sheet, each of the metal sheets having said at least two engagement holes for the engagement elements which kinetically interact with the functional component,

placing the individual metal sheets against one another in a sandwich structure with corresponding engagement holes in each of the individual stamped metal sheets congruent with one another,

providing the hole wall of at least one of the engagement holes in the middle stamped part with the elastomeric plastic cover, before the individual sheets are placed against one another, and

non-detachably connecting the three individual metal sheets together after having been placed against one another.

11. (Amended) Method according to Claim 9, wherein the plastic cover used is a plastic border which surrounds a hole edge and is clicked into place at the hole edge or is secured in undercuts or cutouts of the middle stamped part.

12. (Amended) Method according to Claim 9, wherein the plastic cover is produced by injection-moulding plastic around a hole edge.

13. (Amended) Method according to Claim 12,

wherein, while the plastic is being injection-moulded around the hole edge, connecting webs which run on a base surface of the middle stamped sheet and plug-in domes at certain points of the webs which project from a base surface are also injection-moulded on,

03 wherein correspondingly dimensioned passage holes are stamped out from the two outer stamped metal sheets congruently with respect to the plug-in domes, and

wherein the plug-in domes of the middle stamped metal sheet are fitted into the passage holes in the outer stamped metal sheets.

14. (Amended) Method according to Claim 13,

wherein passage holes are also stamped out of the middle stamped metal sheet at the location of the plug-in domes before the domes are formed, and

wherein the plug-in domes or the connecting webs belonging to one side of the middle stamped metal sheet are integrally connected to the plug-in domes or the connecting webs belonging to the other side via the passage holes during the injection-moulding operation.

15. (Amended) Method according to Claim 13, wherein the plug-in domes which project out of the passage holes in the outer stamped metal sheets

in the plugged-in position are partially melted at ends and are pressed onto the outer sides of the outer stamped parts, which are remote from the middle stamped metal sheet , so as to form a flat head which is wider than the dimension of the passage holes.

16. (Amended) Method according to Claim 12, wherein spacer lugs are pressed out of the middle stamped metal sheet on both sides or spacer lugs facing towards the middle stamped metal sheet are pressed out of the outer stamped metal sheet.

17. (Amended) Method according to Claim 13, wherein spacer lugs are pressed out of the middle stamped metal sheet on both sides or spacer lugs facing towards the middle stamped metal sheet are pressed out of the outer stamped metal sheets.

18. (Amended) Method according to Claim 14, wherein spacer lugs are pressed out of the middle stamped metal sheet on both sides or spacer lugs facing towards the middle stamped metal sheet are pressed out of the outer stamped metal sheets.

19. (Amended) Method according to Claim 15, wherein spacer lugs are pressed out of the middle stamped metal sheet on both sides or spacer lugs facing towards the middle stamped metal sheet are pressed out of the outer stamped metal sheets.

20. (Amended) A gate plate for an automatic gear shift mechanism which has engagement holes for glidingly accommodating movable gear shift mechanism engagement elements, comprising:

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cont at least three stamped metal sheet parts stacked together sandwiched, each of said metal sheet parts including at least one engagement hole aligned with engagement holes in the other metal sheet parts,

and an elastomeric plastic cover provided to surround at least a portion of the engagement hole in a middle one of the metal sheet parts.

26. (Amended) A method of making a gate plate for an automatic gear shift mechanism which has engagement holes for glidingly accommodating movable gear shift mechanism engagement elements, said method comprising:

stamping a plurality of metal sheet parts, including respective engagement holes in said metal sheet parts,

a4 applying an elastomeric plastic cover to surround at least a portion of one of the engagement holes in a first of the metal sheet parts,

stacking said metal sheet parts to form a sandwich construction with said engagement holes aligned with one another and with said first metal sheet part disposed between two other of the sheet metal parts, and

non-detachably connecting the metal sheet parts together.

IN THE DRAWINGS

A Request for Approval of Drawing Corrections is submitted herewith.

Applicant's Remarks are set forth starting on the following page.